

collecting biometric information from a potential package recipient;

comparing the biometric information with the potential package recipient information to determine if a the potential package recipient is authorized to receive a the at least one package; and

automatically allowing access to the at least one storage location if the biometric information indicates the potential package recipient is authorized to receive the at least one package.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the step of collecting biometric information comprises collecting iris pattern information from the potential package recipient.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the step of collecting biometric information comprises collecting fingerprint information from the potential package recipient.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the step of collecting biometric information comprises collecting information with an input pad to authenticate identity of the potential package recipient.

31. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the step of collecting biometric information comprises collecting information with a camera to authenticate the identity of the potential package recipient.

32. (New) The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of facilitating communication between the potential package recipient and an off-site attendant via a video conferencing system incorporated in the package pick up and delivery station.

33. (New) A method for automating package drop-off and delivery, the method comprising:

receiving at least one package from a user in at least one package portal within a package drop-off and delivery station;

collecting package delivery information from the user with at least one information input system;

processing the package delivery information entered by the user;

associating the package delivery information with at least one storage location and the at least one associated package; and

storing the at least one package in the at least one storage location within the package drop-off and delivery station.

34. (New) The method of claim 33 further comprising the step of facilitating communication between the user and an off-site attendant via a video conferencing system.

35. (New) The method of claim 33 further comprising the step of automating retrieval of the at least one package by a recipient, the step comprising:

providing a biometric input device with the at least one information input system;

collecting biometric information from the recipient with the biometric input device;

comparing the biometric information with the package delivery information to determine if the potential package recipient is authorized to receive the at least one package, and

automatically allowing access to the at least one storage location if the biometric information indicates the potential package recipient is authorized to receive the at least one package.

36. (New) The method of claim 35 wherein the step of collecting biometric information comprises collecting iris pattern information from the potential package recipient.

37. (New) The method of claim 35 wherein the step of collecting biometric information comprises collecting fingerprint information from the potential package recipient.

38. (New) The method of claim 35 wherein the step of collecting biometric information comprises collecting information with an input pad to authenticate identity of the potential package recipient.

39. (New) The method of claim 35 wherein the step of collecting biometric information comprises collecting information with a camera to authenticate the identity of the potential package recipient.

40. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein the step of collecting package delivery information further comprises transmitting identification and authentication information to a remote central data collection system.

41. (New) A method for automating package drop-off and delivery, the method comprising:

receiving at least one package from a user in at least one package portal within a package drop-off and delivery station;

collecting package delivery information from the user with at least one information input system;

processing package delivery information entered by the user;
associating package delivery information with at least one storage location and the at least one associated package;
storing the at least one package in the at least one storage location within the package drop-off and delivery station;
collecting biometric information from a potential package recipient with a biometric input device;
comparing the biometric information with the package delivery information to determine if the potential package recipient is authorized to receive the at least one package;
and
automatically allowing access to the at least one storage location if the biometric information indicates the potential package recipient is authorized to receive the at least one package.

42. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein the step of collecting package delivery information further comprises transmitting identification and authentication information to a remote central data collection system.

43. (New) The method of claim 41 further comprising the step of facilitating communication between the user and an off-site attendant via a video conference system.

44. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein the step of collecting biometric information comprises collecting information with an input pad to authenticate the identity of the potential package recipient.

45. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein the step of collecting biometric information comprises collecting information with a camera to authenticate the identity of the potential package recipient.